

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 20, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In any case, when exposure processing and alignment processing are performed, the gas G within the chamber 61 always flows from the alignment region A toward the exposure region E by the air conditioning system 60. For this reason, the gas G in the vicinity of the exposure region E, whose humidity has increased in conjunction with the liquid immersion region AR being formed, is exhausted to outside the chamber 61 without flowing to the vicinity of the alignment region A. In addition, when tables 103 and 104 (stages 105 and 106) move from the exposure region E to the alignment region A, the liquid L of the liquid immersion regions AR formed on the respective tables 103, 104 is recovered, and drying processing is further implemented, so ~~penetration of the liquid L to~~ is not transferred into the alignment region A, accompanied by due to the movement of tables 103 and 104, ~~is prevented~~. Therefore, the environmental conditions surrounding the alignment region A are always kept constant.